

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air anti-John Kerry
TV propaganda days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for their bottom
line and less of
what we need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
community members,
who can assess
whether they are
indeed serving the
"public interest,
convenience and
necessity."

In this case they
clearly are not. I
recommend they have
their licenses
revoked, and that
the frequencies be
auctioned off to
companies that don't
operate as partisan
propagandists.